9 Aug 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Sunday.

My Billy.

I had your letter this morning. I suppose Germans are a cleanly & honest race & a hideous one. Do they admire you? I have been at work on Kate today. She was much excited because she had had a postcard from you, which she thought must have been written when her card to you reached Fitzroy Sq. & so proved

I am very little low in mind today. Sorry to disturb me for I intensely resent disturbance. But, things it knows, I don't think I shall ever forget this day. It really is a beautiful day.

Yrs
VWS

(9 Aug 1909

46, Gordon Square,

Bloomsbury.

Monday.

Billy.

I had your letter this morning. I suppose Sermons are a dreary & honest race & a hideous one. Do they admire you? I have been at work in Kate today. She was much excited because she had had a postcard from you, which she thought must have been written when her card to you reached Fitzroy Sq. & so proved

I am very little low in mind today. Sorry to disappoint you but intensely visitorious & prospectless. Yes, things is it here. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. I think her coming is really better than my staying. Mystified was.

Yrs

VW

that you were in telepathic communication with her. Your card was apparently an answer to hers - & now all that remains is for you to say that you were impelled to write her by a vision or dream. Be sure to do so & you will very likely be recalled by Mrs Farrell or someone. I see that Kate is ready to be killed by psychology. I have to go to God on Thursday - I saw it was inevitable. having avoided it for 2 years. But I have

hit upon the brilliant idea of
doing a sketch of Aunt S.
here & going it to Kate.
She was much pleased at
the suggestion & I shall spend
an afternoon tolerable in-
terest instead of having to
make conversation. I have
now only 3 more sittings to
have from K. & shall have
to try & find a stout, middle-
aged model to sit for the
dress. What a pity you
aren't in London! I have
had no answer yet from
Mrs Joseph Sutton's, the lodging
house keeper at Studland
Bay. I fear it may mean
that he can't have us.

In fact I have had no news from anyone except desultory gossip from K. Did you know that two of Mrs Bissells sons, one a Tennyson & one a Bissell were, as Kate put it, not quite sensible? As I said to her, nearly everyone has such a skeleton in ins. pection. She then told me she had seen Laura lately & she is much as she was, but has given up trying to paint - which at any rate is a backward step. You would be amused at the amazingly old & respectable & wise attitude I adopt with K. We are a pair & I'm sure she feels with Jack & Norton & Henry Lamb that

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Aug 10

My Dilly.

I have just written to Adrian. But as I wish to continue to hear from you I will write to you too. Firstly as I have already said - not with the wish to be contradicted - the incredible dullness of my own letters appals me. You can however take them as a sign of affection. We are rather busy this week - for on Friday we are going to stay with the Sheps till Monday. & tomorrow we

dine with Sir Charles Dilke
at the House. On Tuesday I go
to Ford for the afternoon. Hale
said to me this morning
"I know 3 people who all
think Virginia the most beau-
tiful person they have ever
seen!! Who do you think
they were? One was Janet
Case! And she has seen
me too. One was Miss
Linsell - who now lives at
Byng Place & who seems to
have seen you at Cambridge.
& the third I have forgotten!
but she was also some Cam-

Lodge female when I had never heard of. I asked Kate whether she agreed with them. "No! I consider you must have been the most beautiful person I ever saw: but Virginia certainly has some lines in her face which must be called beautiful". So you have disposed of it - is something however. To be thought so surpassingly beautiful by at least three people in the world.

I have been working hard all Kate & Pat have to give me a good long sitting today so I have some hopes of getting her done. I think they might to give me the commission & do all three who is going to be done too.

Sophy is keeping us all in
very good order. I feel she is
in her mettle to be economical
& teach me as much as she
can get into my unhousewifely
head in a fortnight. I feel
an intense atmosphere of re-
spectability around me - It is
like having a good balance at
the Bank & have her in the
house. & I feel myself so up
in the opinion of the Misses. but
I confess that, as a permanency
I myself rather prefer the
radiant qualities of Myrtilla.
Besides I think that "Madam"
is more my present character
than "Miss Nessa". I have
not yet heard from Mr Joseph
Gilbons which is tiresome.
Give my love to Saxon.

Yours
B.

1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Aug 11

My Billy.

I have only time for a short letter as we are going to dine with Sir Charles Dilke & I have had to devote the afternoon to trying unsuccessfully to make Julian go to bed. It is still very hot & I imagine you roasted to a cinder. No letter from you today. but we may come tonight

I rather doubt if I shall be able to write tomorrow as I have then to go to God. My things have been quite without interest & chiefly consisted in the buying of a new hat for 7/6. I shall always buy them for 7/6 in future - they last about as long as an expensive hat & one can then get another without qualms. What shall I do

to make my letters more
lively? A visit to God
would improve them. I
have long talks with
Sophy who considers that
my stupor has been more
stunned of late than
running. I is going to
lay down rules for the
conduct of the house
Oh God I must dress. Is this worth
reading?

Yours VB

13 Aug 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Friday.

My Billy.

I spent yesterday at Eyot so you can expect nothing amusing. Aunt Stephen looked very old & shaky I thought & she would call Julian Clive while Kate called me Stella. which gave an atmosphere of unreality to the scene. In fact it was all very unreal & remote & I came to the conclusion that I should commit suicide before I reached such a state of decrepitude. Sir Herbert was there, oppressed

brilliant light leaving a great tail for a long time. like my idea of a comet. I will keep the times. I am writing very fast indeed. especially in parts. Which? I haven't left space to say. VW

13 Aug 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Friday.

My Billy.

I spent yesterday at Eyd so you can expect nothing amusing. Aunt Stephen looked very old & shaky I thought & she would call Julian Clive while Kate called me Stella. which gave an atmosphere of unreality to the scene. In fact it was all very unreal & remote & I came to the conclusion that I should commit suicide before I reached such a state of decrepitude. Sir Herbert was there, oppressed

brilliant light leaving a great sad hush behind. Julian was a little nervous of a comet. I will keep his tunes. I am writing very fast indeed, especially in parts. Which? I haven't left space to say. Yours VB

evidently by his surroundings.
Little after tea when he & Kate
took me on the river & he
became lively while telling me
all about the feeling in England
during the French & German war.
Once we came close to a group
of naked boys. They were
really surprisingly beautiful.
I was pleasing & trying to keep
up with them while Kate & Fr.
St. Sate with their backs to
them letting the boat drift.
But my rapt gaze or the boys'
voices must have warned
old Kate of the near presence

of indecency. for the moon said we must turn round before I could get nearly up to them. When they saw what I had been looking at I think they were shocked, for the boys had no particle of clothing & all was obvious. This reminds me that I have had a very indecent letter from Norton giving me the latest gossip from Cambridge. It is only amusing because indecent & probably would not amuse you as much as it does me. He says nothing about Lytton who must I suppose be lost to the world. I have had no other news beyond Saxon's visit

spiteful letter, which I will answer when I can concoct a reply that won't be too unworthy. But perhaps I'd better wait for that. He seems to be still in a teasing mood, which must call to the mind of his oldest friends the days of his first fame-like impudence at Cambridge - He ought to cultivate it. We go home tomorrow I have some thoughts of going on second next Friday instead of waiting till the Tuesday after. Then would have to come back for Monday night. But it is so baking here that we are beginning to think Julian important to be kept here longer than we can help. Last night we saw what we thought must be a shower of meteors - a most

14 Aug 1904

Coles
Buntingford.
Herts.

Saturday.

My Billy.

We came here yesterday & today I have a letter forwarded from you - We are left to ourselves here - for Mr. Grey's oldest friend happened to die yesterday & so took he & Mrs G. have gone off to attend to the widow to-day - We knew last night that he would go. but not that she would - & I am rather relieved at their absence.

for though I don't dislike her
yet I don't find her attrac-
tive. She has no special
intelligence. but very strong
views on such subjects as
temperance. & I have come
to the conclusion that only
people with very remarkable
brains ought to work upon
such subjects as any but a
rather jocular light. She is
also religious & I see that
if I saw much of her & had
to live with her I should find
her intolerable. She has com-
pletely the upper hand of

Thomas. who has an odd
amusing mind - I believe. by
the way. that I gave you a
lengthy description of them
when I had my last letter to do
in Scotland last year. This
house has a great many
books in it & a great many
beautiful things - but in short
it is an ugly mid-Victorian
building. The weather is
cooler & it has even rained
a little. Perhaps if it
really cools down we shall
after all wait up to second
title the 24th. I don't want it
so soon as. but I see that it

in Italian abroad to keep Julian in London longer than one actually need & he does at times look very white. which however I think is really more due to teething than the London air. I have at last had a telegram from Mr Sitwell who had only just got my letter. I don't know why, to say that we can probably have the lodgings &. I hope that will be all right. I suppose I shall hear definitely tomorrow. Your odd party seems to be a successful one. Have you met anyone you know? I thought all culture would be there.

Yrs VB.

T. PARSONS 3.2.13